



Video Transcription
Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro
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Hi. I'm Chris Nicastro, commissioner of education for the state of Missouri. Thanks for watching this month's Top 10 by 20 UPDATE.

In accordance with House Bill 1490, work groups have started their review of Missouri's education standards. Eight groups comprised of active classroom teachers and parents of school-aged children from all over Missouri are in the process of reviewing the Missouri Learning Standards. The Department and the State Board expect high standards to come out of these meetings. Our children deserve nothing less as we prepare them for college and careers. The Department will support these meetings as requested by the work groups themselves.

Missouri's schools are full of success stories that often go unnoticed. The Department would like to recognize the accomplishments of schools, teachers and students in our Top 10 by 20 e-newsletter. This is a chance for you to share your Top 10 by 20 success stories with our more than 10,000 newsletter subscribers from across the state. Please email the Department with your story.

Speaking of success stories, I'd like to congratulate seven Missouri schools who were honored as 2014 Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. The national award recognizes schools whose students achieve at very high levels or who have made significant progress to close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. The teachers and administrators at these schools are to be commended for the hard work and dedication they show to provide the best possible education for their students.

Finally, as many of you know, I recently announced my retirement effective at the end of the year. I have been blessed to spend almost 40 years in education, including the last five as Missouri's Commissioner of Education. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve hundreds of thousands of children in this state. I am confident that the State Board of Education will find a new leader who will help guide Missouri's kids into the Top 10 by 20.